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Baker-Polito Administration Celebrates Groundbreaking at Harmon Apartments in Boston

State tax credits will help bring 36 units of new, accessible housing to Dorchester community

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Boston, MA – August 8, 2017 – Today, Housing and Community Development Undersecretary Chrystal Kornegay joined Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, Senator Linda Darcena Forry and officials from The Boston Home to celebrate the groundbreaking of 36 new, handicap-accessible units at the Harmon Apartments in Dorchester that will incorporate advanced technology for individuals with limited mobility.

"We are thrilled to see construction begin on this innovative project, designed to meet a diverse set of needs for people with limited mobility," **said Governor Charlie Baker**. "Partnering with the City of Boston and groups like The Boston Home to address the challenges of adults with progressive neurological diseases, and the needs of their families, is an important part of our efforts to ensure every family has access to affordable housing that fits their needs."

"Stable families build strong communities, and we are pleased to partner with non-profits like The Boston Home to provide critical services to residents and families in need," **said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito**. "We look forward to what this important project will do to empower people living with mobility challenges in Dorchester to live more independently."

In 2016, the Baker-Polito Administration awarded state and federal tax credits, creating over \$8.8 million in equity and \$1.75 million in direct subsidy to support the project. The City of Boston also awarded \$2 million in funding. Thirty of the units will be affordable, with eight units reserved for very low-income families and individuals. The Boston Home development, which will be built on the nonprofit's current campus on Dorchester Avenue, will provide an independent living alternative to skilled nursing facilities for families and individuals with a wide-range of services available to residents.

"Our goal in Boston is to create a city that works for everyone -- and that includes creating homes that are affordable, accessible, and allow our residents to live independently," **said Mayor Walsh**. "I thank all the partners involved in this equitable housing development. This innovative solution for needed accessible supportive housing is a snapshot of the progress we're making citywide. It takes a team to move our housing goals forward, and I'm proud of Boston's commitment to this project, and to our commitment to keeping Boston a diverse city where all are welcome."

"This project succeeded because of the dedicated efforts of The Boston Home and local leaders, who understand the meaningful impact Harmon Apartments will have on the lives of residents and their families," **said Undersecretary Chrystal Kornegay**. "Housing like the Harmon Apartments make our neighborhoods inclusive, vibrant and accessible to all of our residents, and I am proud we were able to support The Boston Home in this endeavor."

"This is a special and unifying day for Dorchester, for the City, for the Boston Home, and for the disability community across Massachusetts," **said State Representative Dan Cullinane**. "Too often when people discuss those living with disabilities it is framed as a conversation about other people. This isn't about other people. This is about all of us. None of us can predict the future. No one can say whether or not they or their loved ones will have a disability - we owe it to each other and our collective future to ensure our housing supply is not just affordable but inclusive for all. Today is truly a milestone for housing in our City and in our Commonwealth."

The Boston Home is a non-profit agency that supports adults with progressive neurological diseases, including multiple sclerosis.

In April, Governor Baker filed a housing bond bill seeking \$1.287 billion in additional capital authorization to advance the administration's commitment to affordable housing. In May 2016, the administration unveiled a five-year capital budget plan that includes a \$1.1 billion commitment to increasing housing production, an 18 percent funding increase over previous funding levels. The \$1.1 billion capital commitment provides for significant expansions in state support for mixed-income housing production, public housing modernization, and affordable housing preservation. The housing bond bill filed today provides the authorization to fully fund this capital expansion.

Since 2015 the Baker-Polito Administration has provided direct funding to create and preserve over 3,500 units of affordable housing across Massachusetts.

